

- 15 -

CLAIMS:

1. A cabinet lock for selectively locking a cabinet of a kind comprising a compartment structure and a closure movable relative to said compartment structure for selectively closing an opening of said compartment structure, said cabinet lock comprising:

a latch bolt assembly including a mounting and a bolt movably disposed with said mounting between a locking position and an unlocked position,

a striker including a coupling region with which said bolt can couple to thereby isolate relative movement between said latch bolt and said striker in at least one direction lateral to the direction of movement of said bolt between its locking position and said unlocked position,

wherein said striker is engagable with one of said compartment structure and closure and said latch bolt is engagable with the other of said compartment structure and closure in a manner to place such in coupling proximity when said closure is in closing relation with said opening of said compartment structure,

said latch bolt including means to urge or is positioned to urge said bolt to said locking position, and

said striker including an interference means movable to interfere with the movement of said bolt into coupling engagement with said coupling region of said striker to thereby prevent coupling.

2. A cabinet lock as claimed in claim 1 wherein said bolt moves in a linear manner relative to said mounting between its locking position and an unlocked position.

3. A cabinet lock as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein said striker includes an aperture, said coupling of said bolt and said striker occurring by a penetrative engagement of said bolt with said aperture thereby isolating relative movement between said latch bolt and said striker in at least one direction lateral to the direction of penetration of said bolt.

- 16 -

4. A cabinet lock as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein said striker is in use fixed to one of (a) said compartment structure and (b) closure, and said latch bolt is in use fixed with the other of said compartment structure and closure.

5. A cabinet lock as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein said striker includes a portion fixed to one of said compartment structure and closure and said interference means is in sliding engagement with the portion fixed.

6. A cabinet lock as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein said striker includes a portion fixed to one of said compartment structure and closure and said interference means is in rotational engagement with the portion fixed.

10 7. A cabinet lock as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein said interference means is manually movable.

8. A cabinet lock as claimed in any one of claims 3 to 7 wherein said interference means is a cover to at least in part extend across the opening of said aperture of said striker to present interference to the movement of said bolt into
15 said aperture.

9. A cabinet lock as claimed in any one of claims 3 to 7 wherein said interference means is a tongue which is capable of extending at least in part across said aperture.

10. A cabinet lock as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein said interference means is a means movable relative to the fixed portion of said striker the interference means itself carrying and/or defining the aperture, the movement of the interference means relative to the apportion fixed of the striker moving the aperture into and out of alignment for penetrative engagement by said bolt.

25 11. A cabinet lock as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10 wherein said means to urge is an electromagnetic means actuatable to displace said bolt from said unlocked position to said locking position.

12. A cabinet lock as claimed in claim 11 wherein said electromagnet means is actuatable to displace said bolt from said locked position to said unlocked position.

- 17 -

13. A cabinet lock as claimed in claim 11 or 12 wherein means to control actuation of said electromagnetic means is provided, remote from said latch bolt.
14. A cabinet lock as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 16 wherein said means to urge is a passive biasing means (e.g. a spring).
- 5 15. A cabinet lock as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10 wherein said means to urge is a passive biasing means (e.g. a spring) and an electromagnetic means is provided to move said bolt from said locking position to said unlocked position.
16. A cabinet lock as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15 wherein said bolt is in its natural state biased toward said locking position.
- 10 17. A cabinet lock as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 16 wherein said striker includes a ramp surface over which said bolt can slide during movement of said closure to a condition closing the opening of said compartment to displace said bolt towards its unlocked position.
18. A cabinet lock as claimed in any one of claims 3 to 17 wherein said ramp 15 leads to a plateau surface of said striker at which the opening to said aperture is provided.
19. A cabinet lock as claimed in any one of claims 11 or 12 or 13 wherein said electromagnetic means is powered from remote power source.
20. A cabinet lock as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 13 wherein said electromagnet means is controlled for actuation by a remote switch.
21. A cabinet lock as claimed in claim 20 wherein said remote switch controls the delivery of power from said power source to said electromagnetic means.
22. A cabinet lock as claimed in claim 20 wherein said remote switch is hard wired with said electromagnetic means.
- 25 23. A cabinet lock as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 13 wherein said electromagnetic means is a solenoid.
24. A cabinet lock as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 13 wherein said electromagnetic means includes the bolt which is of a ferrous material and extending into and/or through a coil capable of being powered by said power source.
- 30

- 18 -

25. A cabinet lock as claimed in claim 20 wherein said remote switch is a reed switch actuatable by influence of a magnetic field.
26. A cabinet lock as claimed in claim 25 wherein said magnetic field is provided by a key which includes a permanent magnet.
- 5 27. A cabinet lock as claimed in claim 1 wherein latch bolt includes an electromagnetically movable bolt, said latch bolt including a first electric connection terminal for the engagement of an electric lead for delivery of electromagnetic power to said latch bolt and a second electric connection terminal in electrical connection with said first and capable of receiving an electric lead for the delivery of said power from said latch bolt to an other like latch bolt.
- 10 28. A cabinet lock as claimed in claim 27 wired in parallel with a like cabinet lock from a common power source and wherein each cabinet lock includes its said bolt disposed from said mount in a manner normally biased towards said locking position (eg by a spring) save for upon the actuation of said electromagnetic means to move said bolt to the unlocked position.
- 15 29. A cabinet lock as claimed in claim 28 wherein each said cabinet lock includes its own designated means to actuate (e.g. reed switch) said electromagnetic means and independent of the others.
- 20 30. A cabinet which includes a compartment defining structure including an opening closable by a closure means (eg a door or drawer) movable relative to said compartment structure, said cabinet further including a cabinet lock for selectively locking said closure means and said compartment defining structure when in a condition closing said compartment defining structure, said cabinet lock comprising:
 - a latch bolt assembly including a mounting and a bolt movably disposed with said mounting between a locking position and an unlocked position,
 - 25 a striker including a coupling region with which said bolt can couple to thereby isolate relative movement between said latch bolt and said striker in at

- 19 -

least one direction lateral to the direction of movement of said bolt between its locking position and said unlocked position,

said striker is fixed to one of said compartment structure and closure and said latch bolt is fixed to the other of said compartment structure and closure in a 5 manner to place such in coupling proximity when said closure is in closing relation with said opening of said compartment structure,

said latch bolt including means to urge or is positioned to urge said bolt to said locking position, and

said striker including an interference means movable to interfere with the 10 movement of said bolt into coupling engagement with said coupling region of said striker to thereby prevent coupling.

31. A cabinet as claimed in claim 30 wherein said cabinet includes a plurality of openings closable by independently movable closure means, each closure means having in association a said cabinet lock.

15 32. A cabinet as claimed in claim 30 or 31 wherein each said cabinet lock includes its said bolt disposed from said mount in a manner normally biased towards said locking position (e.g. by a spring) save for upon the actuation of an electromagnetic means of said mounting to move said bolt to the unlocked position.

20 33. A cabinet as claimed in any one of claims 30 to 32 wherein each said cabinet lock includes its own designated means to actuate said electromagnetic means and independent of the others.

34. A cabinet as claimed in claim 33 wherein said means to actuate is a switch.

25 35. A cabinet as claimed in any one of claims 32 to 34 wherein each said electromagnetic means is powered from one power source.

36. A cabinet as claimed in any one of claims 34 or 35 wherein said latch bolt and striker are positioned internal of the compartment structure and said switch is actuatable from external of the compartment structure.

- 20 -

37. A cabinet as claimed in claim 34 wherein the switch is a magnetically actuatable switch (e.g. a reed switch).
38. A cabinet as claimed in claim 37 wherein said reed switch is placed external of said compartment structure.
- 5 39. A cabinet as claimed in claim 37 wherein said reed switch is positioned internal of the compartment structure but is positioned to be influenced by a magnetic field the source of which is or may be placed external of the compartment structure.
- 10 40. A cabinet which includes a compartment defining structure including an opening closable by a closure means (e.g. a door or drawer) movable relative to said compartment defining structure, said cabinet further including a cabinet lock for selectively locking said closure means and said compartment defining structure when in a condition closing said compartment defining structure, said cabinet lock being as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 29.
- 15 41. A cabinet as claimed in claim 40 wherein said mounting includes apertures for mechanically fastening said latch bolt to one of said compartment structure and closure.
- 20 42. A cabinet as claimed in claim 40 or 41 wherein said striker includes apertures for mechanically fastening said latch bolt to the other of said compartment structure and closure.
43. A cabinet as claimed in any one of claims 40 to 42 wherein said mounting is in use fixed to said compartment structure.